

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 14642 061858Z

61

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-02 L-03 /065 W

----- 080803

R 061803Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0142

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS PARIS 14642

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

1. EFFECTIVE 1 JUNE 1975 MINIMUM WAGE (SMIC) WAS  
RAISED 2.45 PERCENT FROM 6.95 FRANCS AN HOUR TO 7.12  
FRANCS OR 1,238.88 FRANCS PER MONTH ON BASIS OF 40-  
HOUR WORK WEEK IN INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE.

2. CUMULATIVE EFFECT OF ABOVE INCREASE SINCE JUNE  
1974 WAS TO RAISE SMIC BY 19.7 PERCENT WHICH IS TO BE  
COMPARED WITH 18.7 PERCENT AVERAGE NATIONAL WAGE  
INCREASE DURING SAME PERIOD AND 12.7 PERCENT OF COST  
HAS RESULTED IN A 6.2 PERCENT INCREASE IN SMIC PURCHAS-  
ING POWER (INSTEAD OF THE MATHEMATICAL 7 PERCENT) BE-  
CAUSE OF LOSS OF WAGES IN THE SAME PERIOD DUE TO RE-  
DUCED WORK WEEK FROM 43 TO 42 HOURS.

3. NEW RATE WILL AFFECT DIRECTLY SOME 500,000 WORKERS  
AND INDIRECTLY AS MANY AS 3 MILLION WHO, ACCORDING TO  
AN INSEE SURVEY , WERE PAID LESS THAN 1,300  
FRANCS PER MONTH.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 14642 061858Z

4. COMMENT: SMIC ADJUSTMENTS ARE BASED ON A 1969  
LAW WHICH TIED THE SMIC RATE TO THE COST OF LIVING AND  
CORRESPONDING INCREASES IN NATIONAL WAGE AVERAGES.  
SINCE 1969 SUCCESSIVE GOVERNMENTS HAVE REAFFIRMED  
PRINCIPLE AND DETERMINATION TO FAVOR MORE RAPID IN-  
CREASES IN LOWER PAID CATEGORIES. THE SAME POLICY  
HAS BEEN APPLIED IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND THE  
NATIONALIZED SECTOR, MUCH TO THE DISPLEASURE AND MILD  
PROTEST OF SENIOR PERSONNEL AND THEIR UNION, THE  
CONFEDERATION GENERALE DES CADRES (CGC).  
RUSH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WAGE RATES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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